

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 054907
ORIGIN STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 EB-08 SS-15
L-03 /057 R

DRAFTED BY STR:AWWOLFF/JF
APPROVED BY STR:AWWOLFF
-----105811 031735Z /43
O 031715Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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USMTN - FROM AMBASSADOR WOLFF TO AMBASSADOR HOLDRIDGE

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT:LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER LEE

1. WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD DELIVER THE FOLLOWING
LETTER TO PRIME MIISTER LEE:

BEGIN TEXT - "DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

IN OUR DISCUSSION EARLIER THIS MONTH, I PROMISED
TO GET BACK TO YOU WITH FURTHER THOUGHTS ON SINGAPORE'S
PARTICIPATION IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN
GENEVA WHERE I MET WITH A NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS, AND I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A STRONG
CONSENSUS AMONG BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
THAT THE MAIN POLITICAL DECISIONS THAT WILL CONCLUDE THESE
NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN BY MID-JULY OF THIS YEAR.

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THERE IS ALSO A STRONG CONSENSUS THAT THE RESULTS SHOULD
BE OF A NATURE THAT WOULD COMMAND BROAD SUPPORT BY THE
MAJORITY OF THE COUNTRIES TAKING PART IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.
I BELIEVE THAT A FAILURE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS EITHER TO
REACH A RESULT IN GENERAL, OR IN TERMS OF RESULTING IN A
NORTH-SOUTH CONFRONTATION WOULD BE VERY DAMAGING. TO AVOID
THIS, MUCH WILL DEPEND, AS IT ALWAYS DOES, ON THE

INDIVIDUALS EXERCISING A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS

I UNDERSTAND THAT SINGAPORE IS GOING TO STRENGTHEN ITS DELEGATION BY SENDING ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO GENEVA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I HAVE TALKED TO AMBASSADOR MCDONALD; THE HEAD OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE MTN, AND HE CONCURS WITH ME THAT IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO BOLSTER YOUR REPRESENTATION IN GENEVA. KNOWING THE BUSINESS-LIKE MANNER WITH WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT APPROACHES TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WE WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL TO HAVE STRONG SINGAPORE REPRESENTATION WITH THE THOUGHT THAT SINGAPORE'S

PRAGMATIC ATTITUDE WOULD HAVE A SALUTARY INFLUENCE ON OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES. IT HAS BEEN THE HISTORY OF THE GATT THAT THE INFLUENCE OF A COUNTRY IS NOT NECESSARILY DIRECTLY RELATED TO ITS SIZE. AT ONE TIME A FEW YEARS AGO, IT WAS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO THAT HAD ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL AND ARTICULATE VOICES IN THE GATT.

AMBASSADOR MCDONALD AND I BOTH LOOK FORWARD TO A CLOSE AND HARMONIOUS WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR PEOPLE BOTH IN GENEVA AND IN OUR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS TO ASSURE THE MAXIMUM RESULT FROM THIS MAJOR ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.

AMBASSADOR MCDONALD HAS ALSO INFORMED ME OF A PROPOSED MEETING OF ASEAN SENIOR TRADE OFFICIALS DURING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE MONTH OF MARCH. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ASEAN OFFICIALS WILL BE REVIEWING ASEAN POSITIONS IN THE MTN IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS ACCELERATED TIME FRAME. THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE AN IDEAL OCCASION FOR SINGAPORE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PRAGMATIC FORMATION OF POSITIONS WHICH WILL LEAD TO SIGNIFICANT RESULTS IN THE MTN.

VERY TRULY YOURS, ALAN WM. WOLFF" END TEXT CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, TRADE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE054907
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AWWOLFF/JF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780098-0039
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803108/aaaadnua.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 588224b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3121822
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER LEE
TAGS: ETRD, SN, US, MTN, (LEE KUAN YEW), (WOLF, ALAN WM)
To: SINGAPORE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/588224b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014